JFK assassination records appeals Harold Weisberg 11/30/79

Withholding of the public domain - what the FBI itself disclosed in Warren Commission records, what its Section in which there is disclosure and withholding discloses Garrison charged, publicly

Dr. Stanley Drennan and Robert K. Brown

Throughout Section 158 of 62-109060 there is withholding relating to Dr. Drennan. What is withheld was disclosed by the FBI a decade earlier, in the Warren Commission records. This is to say that it withheld under FOIA what it did not withhold when there was no FOIA. In turn this reflects the FBI's attitude, of corrupting FOIA from a disclosure statute to one for withholding.

While with extensive withholding it is not possible to state with certainty all that is withheld, I believe there is a high likelihood that what is withheld in this section is disclosed in earlier sections I have read.

This is common. It extends to King assassination records, where the same document is in JFK assassination and KUKLUX files. At approximately this point in the 62-109060 file there is no withholding of what was withheld in the identical record (Buffalo) in the King records.

Briefly, the Drennan story is that he offered Robert K. Brown $50,000 for the JFK assassination. (I'm sure this will remind you of King assassination records and extensive withholdings in them.) Brown did not report this to any authority but he mentioned it to a college student named, as I recall, Craddock. Craddock did report it, followed by FBI interviews of him and Brown, then as a reserve officer taking Army training in the Atlanta area.

The assassination desires extended to about 10,000 Jews and all the members of Americans for Democratic Action, an ambitious project.

In return for his silence, it seems, Brown was promoted from Captain to major.

As I have informed you, the FBI has careful records of what it disclosed in the Commission's files. Checking this kind of thing out is simple. It can also be done by a phone call to the Archives, which has the Commission's name files. An affirmative obligation is imposed by the Statute. In addition, prior to FOIA, there was the stated

national policy of making maximum possible disclosure. This originated with the White House and included the Department, the Attorney General, the Director of the FBI and the Commission chairman/Chief Justice.

FOIA did not negate this policy, nor did it wipe out disclosure practices and precedents.

In my own interest I have no concern about this withholding. I published the essence of what is withheld years ago. However, it is typical of what taints the processing and the withholdings in both King and Kennedy cases. Customarily the FBI withholds, meaning continues to withhold, what many men, to its knowledge, within the public domain by various means, including its own disclosures and those by the persons involved.

There is no irrational rumor relating to and defamatory of those not liked by the FBI that was too defamatory for the FBI to disclose, with names. Conversely, as with Dreeman, the FBI was greatly concerned about those of the right, including the right extreme, except for its enemies. Those it protected.

While it requires some work for those not subject experts to determine what is within the public domain, the determination that these are historical cases was by the Department and there are means of ready determination of what is within the public domain. Many laws are not easy to comply with or to enforce but there is an obligation of compliance imposed by all laws. No exception is provided for the Department or its FBI, other than FOIA's exemptions, properly interpreted and in accord with stated Department policy.

I see no difference between the disclosure of the totally false report that I threatened one Frank Sorbo and his family with death, which the FBI disclosed without asking me and while deliberately denying my my invoked PA rights, and Brennan's threat to JFK, which was the subject of that investigation.

In general this is the kind of information, relating to an extremist woman novelist, Taylor Caldwell, withheld in the MURKIN records and disclosed in 62-109060, which the FBI has acknowledged but not corrected.